

JOINT
PUBLIC NOTICE

CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
69A HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107
and
THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Programs Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

**NOTE: THIS IS A CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CIVIL WORKS PROJECT**

CESAC-PM-TE

August 8, 2003

Refer to: P/N # 2003-1R-219

Morris Island Lighthouse Section 103
Charleston County, South Carolina

The Charleston District, Corps of Engineers, Charleston, South Carolina, proposes to perform the work described herein with due consideration and review given to the relevant provisions of the following laws and others as applicable:

1. The Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251, et. seq.).
2. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et. seq.).
3. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (U.S.C. 470, et. seq.) and the Preservation of Historical Archeological Data Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469, et. seq.).
4. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (42 U.S.C. 4321).
5. Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et. seq.).
6. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1801, et. seq.), Public Law 94-265.
7. Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended (U.S.C. 3501-3510).

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties of proposed construction for protection of the Morris Island Lighthouse, which is bounded on the north by the Charleston Harbor entrance channel, to the west by Morris Island, to the south by Lighthouse Inlet and Folly Island, and to the east by the Atlantic Ocean (see Figure 1).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received at this office until

12 O'CLOCK NOON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2003

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Morris Island Lighthouse (MILH) was originally constructed between the period of March 1873 and October 1876 on high ground (approximately 8 feet MLLW). Progressive erosion along the coast has resulted in the lighthouse perching precariously in 5 to 10 feet of water, approximately 1500 feet offshore. MILH is now isolated in the shallow waters of Lighthouse Inlet. Subject to ocean forces and tidal currents, shifting sand bars can be observed around the lighthouse. Access to the lighthouse is restricted to small draft vessels only.

The lighthouse was originally built on a timber foundation of 264 pilings. Marine borers have damaged 74 of the pilings, which are no longer available to carry their portion of the 3200-ton lighthouse. Much of the construction and design information of the original lighthouse is not available; however, reasonable assumptions indicate that, at present, the factor of safety is approximately 1.3. General geo-technical practice is to design for bearing capacity factors of safety in the range of two to three. Subsequently, it is concluded that the MILH is in jeopardy, over the long term, due to continued disintegration of the wood foundation.

The current plan of protection is to install a sheet pile wall around the lighthouse approximately seven feet outside of an existing sheet pile wall that was installed in 1939 (see Figures 2 & 3). Outside of the sheet pile, geotextile filter fabric will be laid as a foundation for bedding stone on which riprap will be laid followed by armor stone. The protection will extend out a maximum of 100 feet from the center line of the lighthouse, creating a total diameter footprint of approximately 200 feet. In addition, a 30-foot wide construction access platform will be constructed and will remain in place after this project so that future repairs planned for the lighthouse may be conducted. These future repairs are not part of this project and will not be performed by the Corps of Engineers.

Access to the lighthouse presents considerable challenges. The shallow water, shifting sand bars, tidal currents and ocean forces combine to create access and safety problems. Subsequently, access may be made through a number of alternatives, including but not limited to:

- Alternative #1: Dredging a small channel to the MILH from Folly Island, where the sand may be placed in a berm around the front of the lighthouse to minimize ocean forces,
- Alternative #1b: The same as Alternative #1, but with the sand being placed into a temporary geotube to provide safety protection until completion of the project, at which time it would be removed,
- Alternative #2: Access using pontoon barges or working on tidal cycles.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This document serves as a public notice on behalf of the SCDHEC for water quality certification. A certification is required from DHEC stating that the proposed construction will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Clean Water Act. By this notice, the Charleston District requests DHEC to issue that certification. Persons wishing to comment on State Certification are invited to submit same in writing to SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, within 30 days of the date of this notice.

This project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program. By this notice, the Charleston District requests concurrence from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) that the proposed activity is consistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. Concurrence is conclusively presumed if no state action is received within 45 days of receipt of this notice.

The District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein. This worksite is included as a registered property and further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office is on-going.

Section 7 Coordination has been initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding threatened and endangered species. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity, pursuant to Section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended). Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act have been initiated. Coordination with NMFS is on-going.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposed project. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. These requests should be made to DHEC at the address listed above.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to proceed with the project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an

Environmental Assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.
Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Questions or comments concerning this notice should be directed to Mr. Bob Chappell or Mrs. Robin Coller-Socha of the District's Environmental Resources Team (PM-TE) at telephone numbers (843) 329-8162 or (843) 329-8167, respectively.



Joseph A. Jones
Chief, Planning Branch

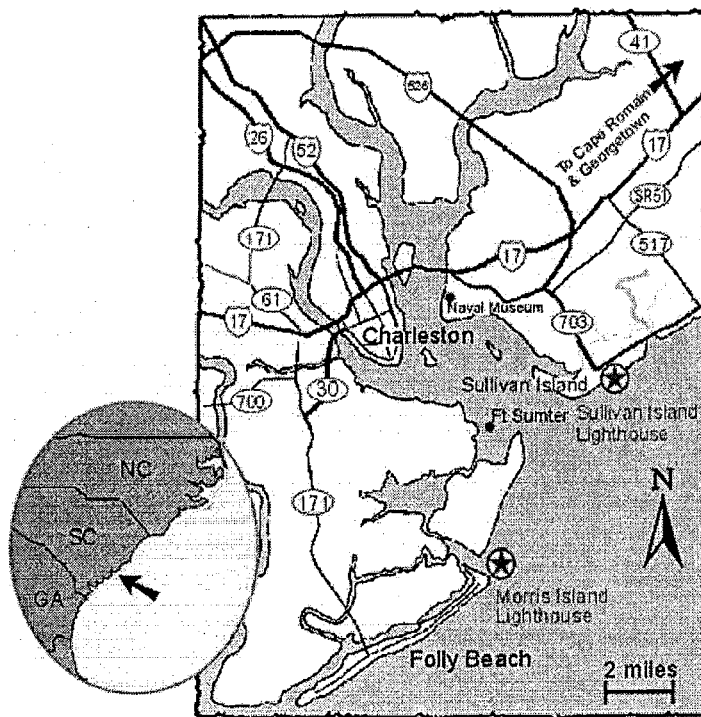
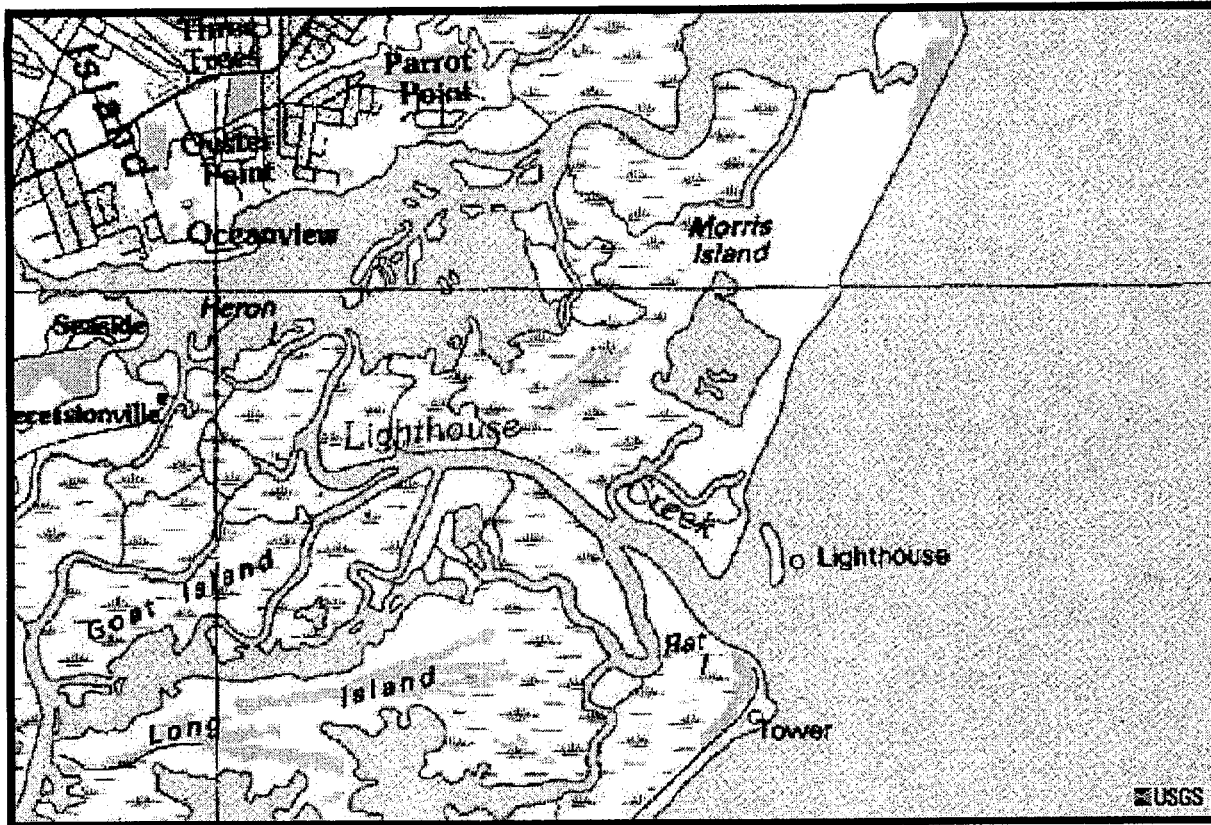
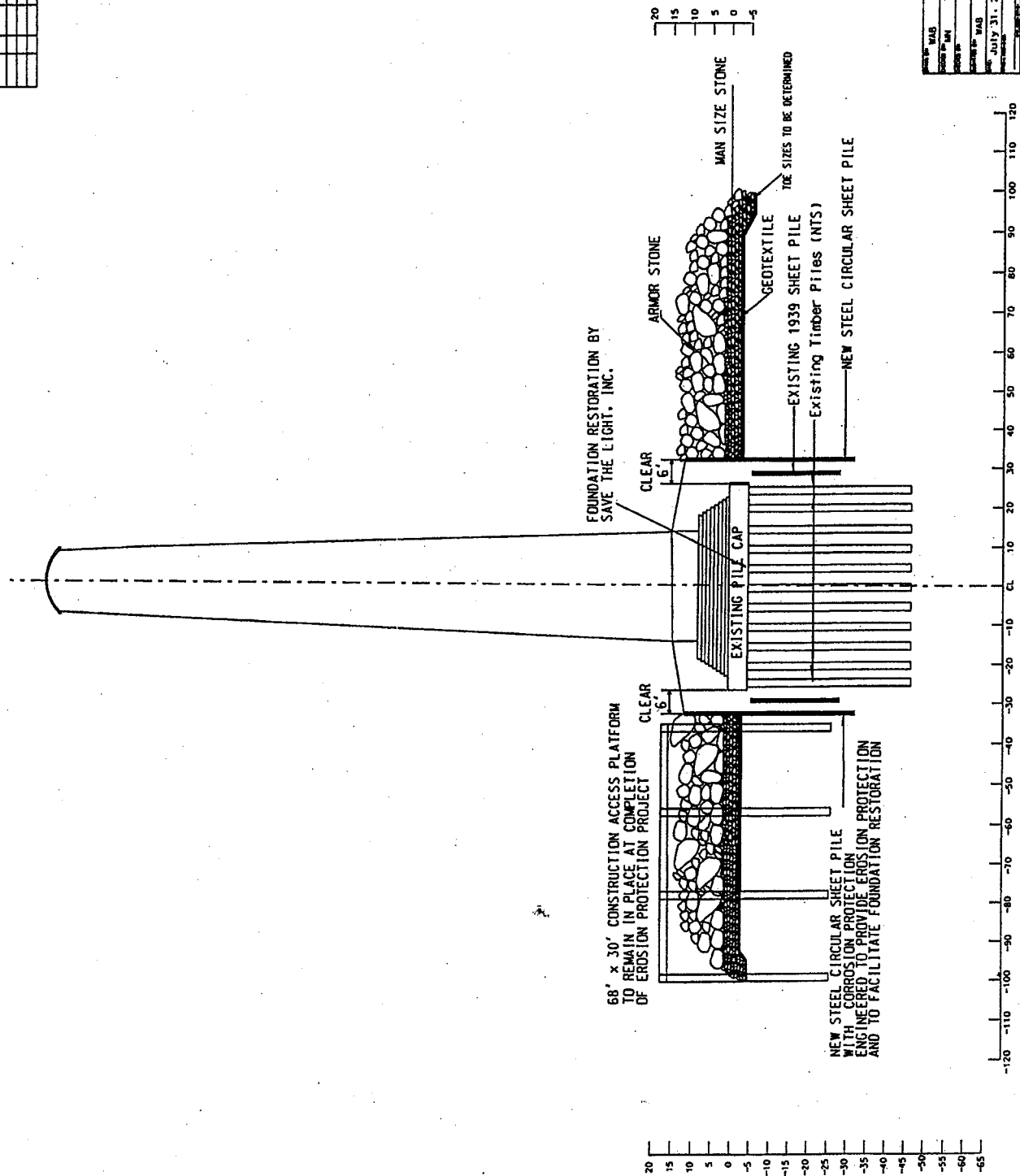


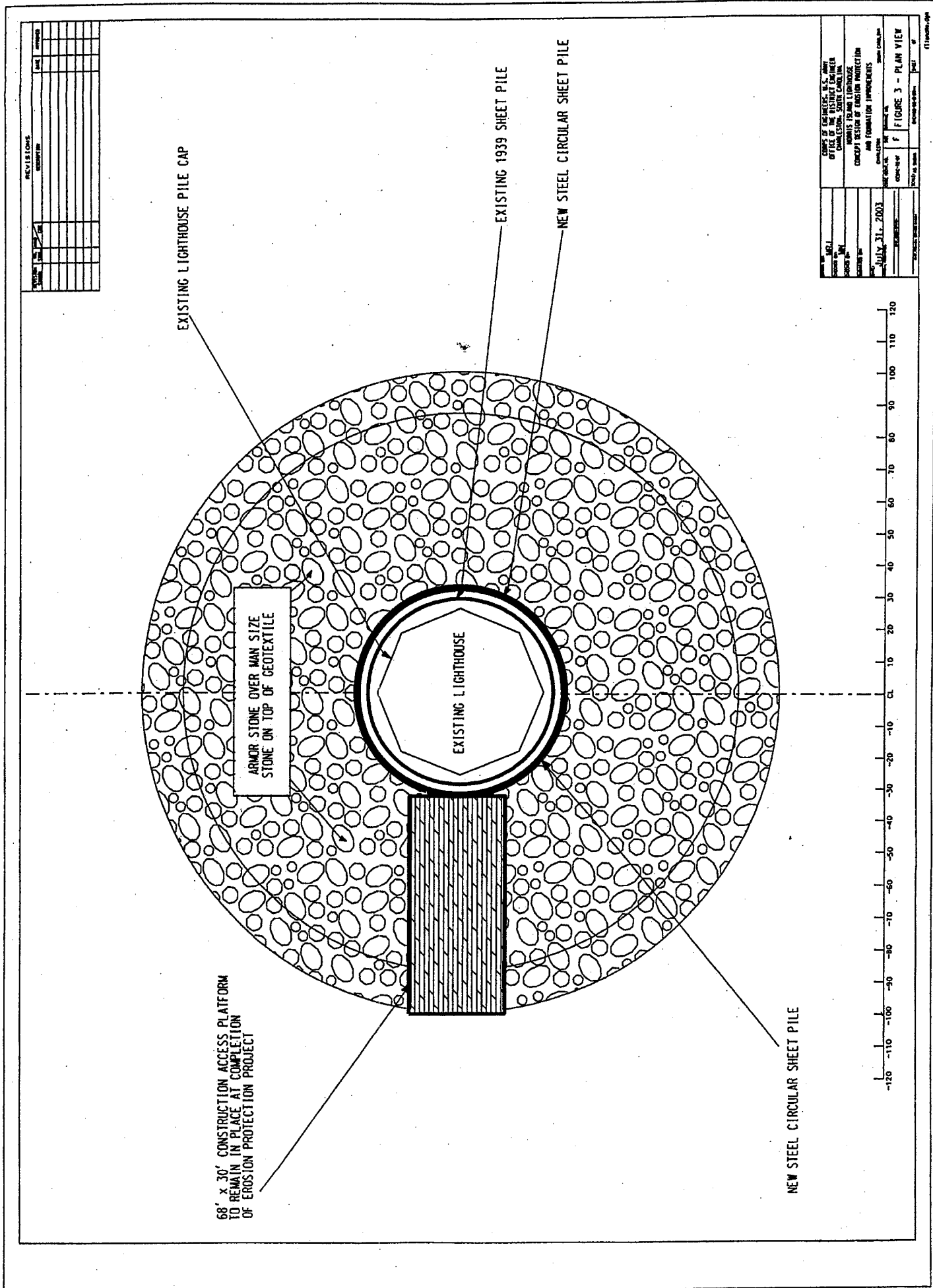
Figure 1

| NO. | DATE | REVISIONS |
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| 1 | 07/31/2003 | ISSUED FOR CONSTRUCTION |
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| DATE: JUL 31, 2003 | PROJECT: MORRIS ISLAND LIGHT | FIGURE 2 - PROFILE VIEW |
| DESIGNED BY: [blank] | CHECKED BY: [blank] | DATE: [blank] |
| APPROVED BY: [blank] | PROJECT MANAGER: [blank] | SCALE: [blank] |
| CONCEPT DESIGN OF EROSION PROTECTION AND FOUNDATION IMPROVEMENTS MORRIS ISLAND LIGHT SOUTH CAROLINA | | |

Figure 2



...AerialviewforMorrisIslandLight 08/01/2003 11:40:49 AM

Figure 3